

As Americans we know what it is like to watch—helplessly and in horror—as merciless acts of terrorism are committed against innocent people. We will never forget the tremendous outpouring of sympathy from the people of Russia following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. This support was much appreciated by our wounded nation and helped us through the dark days in the immediate aftermath of the senseless violence of that fateful day.

As both our nations mourn the losses of September 3rd and September 11th, let us find hope in the countless stories of humanitarian acts that surrounded those horrible events. Colleagues, let us remember the heroism of our first responders, the valor of our troops, and the generosity of our communities in their collective response to these tragedies. May the God of mercy grant His peace to all those who continue to suffer from the violence of those tragic days.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall vote 418 through rollcall vote 426 on July 27, 2006, and July 28, 2006, because I was unavoidably detained on official business.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: On rollcall vote No. 418, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 419, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 420, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 421, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall vote No. 422, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 423, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 424, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 425, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 426, I would have voted "aye."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANDRE AGASSI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Andre Agassi as he retires from a 20-year professional tennis career.

Andre Agassi was born on April 29, 1970, in Las Vegas, NV, to Elizabeth and Emmanuel "Mike" Agassi. When he was an infant, Andre's father hung tennis balls above his crib in the hopes that he would some day become a tennis champion. From the time he could walk and hold a racquet effectively, Andre practiced his game, hitting up to 5,000 balls a day. By age 5, he was practicing with pros such as Jimmy Connors and Roscoe Tanner. At the age of 14, Andre's father sent him to train at Nick Bollettieri's Tennis Academy in Florida. Two years later, in 1986, he turned professional, winning his first top-level singles title in 1987 at the Sul America Open in Itaparica, Brazil.

Andre has won eight Grand Slam singles titles and has achieved a total of 60 career sin-

gles titles with one career doubles title. Andre is one of only five players to win all four Grand Slam events in his career: four Australian Open titles, one French Open, one Wimbledon, and two U.S. Opens. Furthermore, Andre won the men's singles gold medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and in 1999 was ranked the No. 1 player in the world.

In addition to his achievements on the court, Andre participates in many charity organizations and founded the Andre Agassi Charitable Association (AACA), whose mission statement is to provide educational and recreational institutions and activities for abandoned, abused, and at-risk kids. Every year, the AACA holds a concert benefit entitled Grand Slam for Children, featuring performances by artists such as Celine Dion, Robin Williams, and Sir Elton John. After its 11th year, the event has successfully raised over \$50 million for the at-risk children of Las Vegas. In 1995, he won the ATP Arthur Ashe Humanitarian award in recognition of his efforts for helping disadvantaged youth in Las Vegas. In 1997, Andre opened the Boys & Girls Club to assist the youth of Las Vegas, which features a junior tennis team, Team Agassi, as well as a basketball program, the Agassi Stars. In 2001, Andre opened the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy in Las Vegas, NV, a K-12 public charter school founded on the principle that nothing can impact on a child's life more than the education they receive. Additionally, through the AACA, he supports Clark County's only residential facility for abused and neglected children called Child Haven, donating funds for a six-room classroom building now named the Agassi Center for Education. His foundation also provided \$720,000 to assist in the building of the Andre Agassi Cottage for Medically Fragile Children.

In addition to his professional success and his contributions to the community, Andre is a dedicated family man; he is the loving husband of former tennis champion Steffi Graf, and the devoted father to 4-year-old son Jaden Gil and 2-year-old daughter Jaz Elle.

The consummate sportsman, Andre praised his fans following his match on Sunday, September 3, 2006 at the U.S. Open. This match brought to a close one of the most impressive professional careers in all of sports. After walking off the court, Andre said "The scoreboard said I lost today, but what the scoreboard doesn't say is what I've found. Over the last 21 years, I've found loyalty. You have pulled for me on the court and also in life. I have found inspiration. You have willed me to succeed sometimes in my lowest moments." He will always be No. 1 in the world, not only as an athlete, but also as a great humanitarian. Andre has willed our community and children to succeed at some of our lowest moments.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Andre Agassi. I would like to offer Andre my sincerest congratulations on an esteemed career, my warmest thanks for his ongoing contributions to the Las Vegas community, and wish him much luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHERN LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute and congratulate the 2006 Little League World Champions, the Northern Little League team of Columbus, Georgia.

The victory by our Northern Little Leaguers over the undefeated Kawaguchi City team representing Japan, makes them only the second team from Georgia to win a World Championship. While a team from Marietta won in 1983, our team is only the second team from Georgia to ever qualify for this event in its entire 60 year history.

As the Member of Congress representing Columbus and Muscogee County, Georgia, where most of the young men live, I can not tell you how proud we all are of this fine young team.

The entire city and surrounding community was thrilled by the success of its native sons. The Columbus Northern Little League players are not only world champions; they are hometown heroes and celebrities as well.

These young men represented the city of Columbus, the State of Georgia and indeed, our great nation, in the finest tradition of the Little League, and what it stands for and represents—teamwork, sportsmanship and camaraderie.

The spirit of sportsmanship was no more apparent than this year. After winning the Championship game, the entire Columbus team walked over to their opponents dugout, and invited the Japanese team to help them hoist the championship banner and to join them in taking the victory lap around the field. Then, side by side, the two teams scooped up dirt from the infield to keep as souvenirs.

I also want to pay tribute to the parents of these young men. Any parent of a little league baseball player, or for that matter, football, soccer or other sports knows and appreciates the love and commitment needed to be successful in these activities.

Let me also pay tribute to the dedicated Columbus fans, hundreds of whom took the 900-mile trip to Williamsport from Columbus to support our team, as well as the other Little League teams in the Columbus area, and the many volunteers, sponsors and supporters who have dedicated themselves to Little League sports year after year.

Throughout the World Series, it was clear that our Northern Little Leaguers were well schooled and prepared, which in large part, points to the hard work and dedication of the team's Manager—Randy Morris, and Coach—Richard Carter.

But it was the members of the team themselves who had to put it all together on the field. And I would like to pay special tribute to each one of the team members individually, including: Brady Hamilton #6, Ryan Lang #18, Josh Lester #4, Matthew Hollis #10, Patrick Stallings #25, Mason Meyers #16, Kyle Rovig #8, Matthew Kuhlberg #7, Cody Walker #21, Kyle Carter #19, and J.T. Phillips #22.

Babe Ruth once said, "Baseball was, is and always will be to me the best game in the world."

And indeed, for the millions of Little League fans around the world, the 2006 Little League Championship game will go down as one of the best single games in the history of the event.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT
CHRISTOPHER SWANSON

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the tragic death of a young soldier from Anne Arundel County, Maryland, who gave the ultimate measure of sacrifice in the global war on terror, saddens all of us. As we continue to fight this war, the loss of each and every service member is a tragedy.

Anne Arundel County, the state of Maryland, and our Nation lost a great hero when Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Swanson of Rose Haven was killed in Anbar on July 22.

More than 50 of Maryland's bravest have now died in the war in Iraq.

Christopher Swanson was completely dedicated to protecting his fellow troops. He wrote on his personal website, "I would do anything for them even if it means giving my life to save theirs."

Swanson was highly regarded in his family and community. As a teenager, he traveled on mission trips with members of the First Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro, providing the hope of a better life to gang members in West Virginia and Ohio.

He was the captain of his soccer team at Southern High School, where faculty remembered a "happy go-lucky kid that was always lending a hand."

In August of 1999, Sergeant Swanson enlisted in the Army, even as others tried to talk him out of it. He served in Kosovo as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, and was part of the initial assault on Iraq in March of 2003, the first of three tours.

Sergeant Swanson was awarded two purple hearts, one after being injured by an improvised explosive device just weeks before he was killed. He persevered, telling his brother Kenneth that he would not be sidelined.

Christopher Swanson gave his life for all of us. As his representative in Congress, I am grateful for his patriotism and his sacrifice. The Fifth District of Maryland and all Americans join the Swanson family in mourning the loss of this fine young man, a real hero.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JUDGE
JOHN W. GOODSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Judge John W. Goodson, a true treasure to the community of Texarkana, Arkansas, and to the entire state of Arkansas. Judge Goodson passed away August 18, 2006, in Texarkana, Arkansas, at the age of 80.

John W. Goodson began practicing law in 1951 and was known as a "gentle giant" in

the courtroom because of his imposing height, booming voice and tender heart. Throughout his distinguished career as a lawyer and Circuit Judge, John Goodson was a mentor and a friend to many. Some of those he mentored moved on to become international lawyers, elected prosecutors, Circuit Judges, Arkansas Supreme Court Judges and a federal Judge.

Judge Goodson served as the presiding Circuit Judge in courts in Miller, Lafayette, Hempstead and Nevada counties in Southwest Arkansas.

Judge Goodson was a World War II Air Force Veteran, a member of the Arkansas Masonic Lodge, and a board member and former Sunday school teacher at the First United Methodist Church in Texarkana, Arkansas.

Nothing meant more in the life of John W. Goodson than the love he had for his family. This love was evident in all he did, from his active involvement in his church to his role as a community leader.

My condolences go out to his wife, Doris; his daughters Jan Murphy and Mary Jane Briggs; his son John Goodson; and his three granddaughters, Jane Anne Murphy, Wesley Hana Goodson and Mary Claire Briggs. Judge Goodson will be sorely missed in Texarkana and throughout the state of Arkansas.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF DR. GAYLE HOLLIDAY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Dr. Gayle Holliday, an important resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Dr. Holliday is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri. I had the privilege of nominating Gayle for the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses' Celebration of Leadership Unsung Hero Award. While this award carries no monetary prize, it is no less a testament to her devotion to bettering our area. For more than 35 years, Gayle has dedicated her life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving socio-economic conditions, political empowerment and civil rights of people of color.

Dr. Holliday holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Masters in Public Administration, and a Ph.D. in Management and Applied Technology. She is the President and Owner of G & H Consulting, LLC, which has been in business for more than 10 years, helping clients in the public, private and non-profit sectors with strategic planning and business plan development. She was recently appointed by Jackson County, Missouri to oversee the minority and women hiring by contractors and subcontractors for the Truman Sports Complex renovation, which is home of the Kansas City Chiefs and the Kansas City Royals. Additionally, under President Bill Clinton, Gayle was selected as one of a small group of individuals to represent the transportation industry on the President's transition team.

Civically, Dr. Holliday serves on twelve boards in the Greater Kansas City Area with varied interests such as healthcare, education, economic development, and diversity in such areas as race, sex, and religion. Through these community activities, Gayle amasses more than 70 hours of community service each month. She is also a member of the church I pastor, St. James United Methodist Church, and finds time to serve as chair of the Pastor Parish Staff Relations Committee. In all of her activities, she demonstrates her dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. Her high energy pace translates directly to the results she is able to obtain for the benefit of all in the Greater Kansas City Area. Regardless of whether she is in the trenches or the boardroom, her poise and thoughtfulness is ever present.

Throughout her life, Dr. Gayle Holliday has exercised a tireless belief in the principle of putting "others" before "self." She has put her principles to practice, and the effects of her efforts can be felt throughout the Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Dr. Holliday at the Missouri Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Dr. Gayle Holliday and her endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri. She is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire African-American community at large. May her success serve as a stepping stone for many other African-Americans eager to be just as successful in their endeavors. While it is but a small acknowledgement for all of the work she has done, it is a heartfelt gesture, taking strength from the myriad lives she has touched in our hometown.

TRIBUTE TO NORTHWEST INDIANA
FEDERATION OF LABOR

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most devoted and proficient workers in Northwest Indiana. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor AFL-CIO will recognize several individuals for their dedication during the 32nd Annual Community Awards Reception to be held at the Duneland Falls Banquet Center in Chesterton, Indiana on Thursday, August 31, 2006. These individuals, in addition to the other Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are a tribute to the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals will receive special recognition. Mr. Thomas Conway, United Steelworkers International Union Vice President, is this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Conway is being honored for enhancing the well-being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana by countless contributions which further the philosophy of the Labor Movement.